



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was mostly steady in the major terminal markets when compared to a week earlier. Demand was seasonal, and reported in a range of light to good with best movement in fast food outlets. Supplies were sufficient for trade needs, but workable at most locations. However, lighter sizes were available in the East. In the parts structure, wings were clearing easily and in the best position, boneless skinless breasts were in balance to close, other parts were adequate for current requirements. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at desirable to light weights.

Preliminary report Prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 20-DEC-2004 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A

(Including branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	58.00-61.00	52.00-73.50	60.76	27
New York	63.00-65.00			
Los Angeles	80.00			
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	69.00-73.00	53.00-74.50	72.01	84

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 73.50 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
848	68.75-75.50	73.35

Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:

ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	163.50	1,269
BREASTS - B/S	144.50	4,574
BREASTS - WHOLE	73.50	1,155
THIGH MEAT - B/S	74.50	936
LEG QUARTERS	31.00	5,498
WINGS	99.50	2,522

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices for next week's deliveries into the Chicago area were unchanged from last Monday's final. The whole broiler/fryer market tone was steady. Offerings were adequate on heavy birds and limited on small birds. Retail movement was frequently moderate, though mixed and best for features. Food service demand was moderate to good into fast food and catering. Floor stocks were adequate to in close balance. Weights were desirable to trending heavy. Trade on parts was active on fresh wings, moderate on boneless/skinless breasts and limited on remaining items. Supplies of fresh wings were short of full trade needs, boneless/skinless breasts in close balance, remainder of parts available. The market tone was firm on wings, steady to firm on boneless skinless breasts, and generally steady on the balance.

SOUTHERN BROILER Trade sentiment was generally steady in the major terminal markets. Demand was seasonal, but clearing the available offerings. Supplies were short to mostly adequate and keeping floor stocks well balanced. In the parts structure, movement was fairly good. Breast items were balanced to close and moving well, and dark meat was usually sufficient. Wings were in the best position and reported as barely adequate to tight. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices were unchanged. The market tone was generally steady to fully steady. Trading reported for next week's deliveries on regular commitments at unchanged prices with new negotiations at unchanged to higher prices. Offerings in fairly good balance on small whole body product and generally held with confidence, heavier product fully adequate. Retailer demand fair to fairly good best where featured and for parts. The market tone was steady to firm on parts with wings, boneless breast and leg meat in the strongest position. Dealers anticipated satisfactory weekend clearances.

Ads noted (per pound unless otherwise stated):

Arizona – whole body 99, roaster 99, cornish 169, boneless breast 158-399, boneless breast tenders 299-399;

Colorado – roaster 99-129, cornish 169, boneless breast 179-499;

Idaho – roaster 99, boneless breast 179, split breast 129; Northern

California – whole body 159, roaster 149, boneless breast 499, whole leg 149;

Southern California – whole body 57-89, roaster 99-149, roaster seasoned 119, cornish marinated 169, duck 169-179, boneless breast 159-299, boneless breast 4# bag IQF 716, boneless leg meat 98-128, split breast 98-99, leg quarter 8# bag 384, leg quarter 10# bag 390-490, leg quarter 40# case 1699, drumstick and thigh combo pack 98, thigh 89, drumstick 59-89, drumstick 5# bag 190,

(deli food service) – fried 8 piece mixed 499-699, rotisserie 498-499 each, hot wing 399).

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was seasonally light to fair entering the week-end. Offerings of heavier sizes were generally adequate; smaller sizes at least adequate to readily available. Retail and distributive movement was no better than fair. The market tone was mostly steady. In the parts complex, boneless skinless breasts and wings were in good balance and well cleared. Other items were generally steady.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement or ready-to-whole birds was seasonally light to fair. Offerings were fully adequate, particularly on the smaller sizes which were readily available at sharp discount to normal practices. Live supplies were moderate; weights were often lighter than desired, affording some plants the opportunity to cutback production to allow bird weights to increase. Processor schedules were moderate to light. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 64 to 78 cents. Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Wings continued to clear well. Boneless/skinless breasts were in good balance. Other items were adequate.

***BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.**

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A

RANGE	62-84
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	68.16
NO. OF BOXES	6,977
CUMULATIVE	12/13/04-12/17/04 67.86
	12/15/03-12/19/03 63.66
NO. OF BOXES	12/13/04-12/17/04 40,478
	12/15/03-12/19/03 41,467

DEC 16

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DEC 17

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER PARTS					SOUTHERN STATES BROILER PARTS					WEEKLY	
POUNDS					POUNDS					WEEKLY	
ITEM	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	WTD AVG	
BREAST - B/S	820	115.00-150.00	118-122	121.87	710	118.00-150.00	120-125	122.42	3,420	121.36	
TENDERLOINS	262	104.00-170.00	115-120	123.66	317	104.00-170.00	115-120	122.61	1,431	121.88	
BREAST - LINE RUN	87	70.00-78.00	72-74	71.99	95	70.00-76.00	72-74	72.63	467	72.51	
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				52	53.00-63.00	57-59	59.10	287	58.46	
LEGS	76	29.00-49.00	32-34	32.84	58	32.00-49.00	32-34	35.72	353	34.19	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	510	24.00-29.00	26-27	26.41	370	23.00-29.00	25-26	25.65	2,480	26.38	
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,090	25.00-32.00	28-29	28.13	1,090	25.00-32.00	28-29	28.13	4,830	28.15	
WINGS (WHOLE)	335	94.00-102.00	96-98	96.75	320	94.00-108.00	102-104	103.75	1,450	98.41	
WINGS (CUT)	312	120.00-125.00	121-125	121.75	650	118.00-125.00	120-125	122.12	3,019	119.93	
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				226	33.25	
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				163	36.80	
B/S THIGHS	120	73.00-75.00	-	74.33	TOO FEW TO REPORT				440	74.82	
*****					*****						
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS					WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS						
TRADING FOR DEC 16, 2004 F.O.B. DOCK.					TRADING FOR DEC 17, 2004 F.O.B. DOCK.						

RANGE**TODAY'S AVERAGE****RANGE****TODAY'S AVERAGE****5-DAY AVERAGE**

40.00 - 45.50

42.87

38.00 - 46.00

42.38

42.51

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS - Trucklot buying activity was seasonally fair to moderate at best entering the weekend. Offerings of boneless skinless breasts were in good balance and clearing satisfactorily. Bone-in breasts remained at least adequate. Wings were short. Dark meat cuts were adequate to fully adequate. Retail and distributive movement was mostly light as other seasonal holiday items entered the market. The market tone was fully steady to firm on wings; other items were generally steady.

ICE PACKED B/F PARTS, DLVRD TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER LB.

DEC 17

ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD	CURRENT NEG			WTD	WEEKLY	
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS		TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS		WTD AVG	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	135	128.08	757,985		135	128.56	830,680	128.64		3,552,742
TENDERLOINS	110	114.14	148,520		110	109.82	130,640	112.78		690,120
BREAST - WITH RIBS	68-69	75.71	193,720		68-69	76.20	167,560	75.70		816,182
BREAST - LINE RUN	68	69.17	94,000		68	68.56	112,400	69.27		525,440
LEGS	42-43	39.48	285,280		42-43	39.50	429,260	39.50		1,547,060
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	28-29	28.74	285,350		28-29	28.50	626,568	28.82		2,070,993
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	30.03	155,160		23-24	33.18	100,000	31.42		621,320
THIGHS	27-28	38.61	61,920		27-28	40.08	73,280	39.21		309,240
B/S THIGHS	79-80	72.17	103,260		79-80	67.07	257,480	70.00		612,920
WINGS (WHOLE)	102-103	111.54	142,720		102-103	113.87	133,960	109.46		777,280
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.86	32,880		10-12	11.52	44,360	11.74		177,640
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	26.83	14,080		30-35	29.94	20,280	29.07		100,800
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	59.68	26,280		60-65	63.43	24,160	61.70		110,040

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPE, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WT		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	
	(1,000)	12/17	(1,000)	12/15	12/14	12/15	(1,000)	12/10	12/08		RANGE	
Alabama	4,277	4,035	3,977	4,046	5.27	5.34	4,125	5.26		FRESH FRYERS	97-99	
Arkansas	5,216	5,546	5,335	5,512	5.00	5.10	5,369	5.07		ROASTERS 4# & up	107	
Delmarva	2,072	2,165	2,146	2,172	5.16	5.65	2,209	5.57		HENS UNDER 5 LBS	-	
KY-LA-TN	2,473	2,153	1,835	2,110	4.99	5.18	1,961	5.12		HENS OVER 5 LBS	63-67	
Mississippi	3,294	2,710	2,784	3,097	5.66	5.59	3,149	5.62		DUCKS	-	
North Carolina	2,419	2,479	2,306	2,378	6.46	6.44	2,736	6.42		RABBITS WHOLE	-	
Texas	2,568	2,576	2,504	2,512	5.12	5.16	3,032	5.42		CUT UP	-	
Total	22,319	21,664	20,887	21,827	5.33	5.43	22,581	5.43		SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS		
Mon-Fri	109,632	(A)					109,515	(A)		RANGE		

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 17-Dec-04 and 18-Dec-04 is estimated to be 33,392,000 head down 1.45 percent from a week ago and up 4.01 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 33,885,000, last year 32,105,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 18-Dec-04 is estimated to be 158,834,000 head down 0.62 percent from a week ago, and up 2.85 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 159,818,000, last year 154,431,000)

FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	103-105
	DRY PACK	103-108
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	108-111
	DRY PACK	111
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	89-93
	DRY PACK	89-95
DUCKS		175-192

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 04-Dec-04 (Preliminary),

(A) Fast food/ (B) Retail (C) Deboning
Food service
4.20 Lbs. & down 4.21-5.25 Lbs. 5.26 Lbs. & Up
-----THOUSANDS-----

Head	24,347	20,460	51,282
Avg Weight	3.68	4.74	6.50
% of total /1	25%	21%	53%

Comparisons

Last week	18,985	14,631	32,197
Avg Weight	3.74	4.79	6.38
% of total /1	29%	22%	49%

Same week, yr ago /2	22,550	30,305	43,864
Avg Weight	3.78	4.77	6.21
% of total /1	23%	31%	45%

To date/2004	1,244,475	1,012,238	2,208,364
To date/2003	1,121,567	1,162,119	2,136,207

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding. /2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION (Preliminary)

W/E 11-Dec-04	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
Head	159,818	1,534	1,403	2,937	523
Avg Wt	5.21	3.41	8.02	5.61	6.81
Last week	162,589	1,413	1,465	2,878	565
Same wk yr ago	153,501	1,379	1,292	2,671	453
Avg Wt	5.23	3.40	8.05	5.65	6.62
To-date/2004	7,670,555	66,912	66,585	133,497	23,119
To-date/2003	7,537,978	69,458	68,675	138,133	20,264

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 155.8 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period was 161.8 million head, or 6.0 million more than estimated available.

GRAYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION - DECEMBER 14, 2004 PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	RANGE		RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	1.22 - 1.26	Geese 9-14 LBS	.75 - .80
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	1.20 - 1.24	Pigeons	2.50 - 2.85 ea.
Red Fowl 4-5 LBS	.35 - .40	White Pigeons	3.25 - 3.50 ea.
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.45 - .55	Rabbits 4-6 LBS	1.20 - 1.35
Crossbred Fowl 5-9 LBS	.50 - .60	Rabbits 6-9 LBS	1.00 - 1.10
Crossbred Roosters		Bunnies	.50 - 2.00
4-6 LBS	1.10 - 1.20	Guinea Pigs	.05 - 1.00
Crossbred Roosters		Goats	51.00 - 60.00
7-11 LBS	.70 - .85	Chukars	3.00 ea.
Guinea Fowl	1.50 ea.		
Banty Roosters	3.75 - 4.00 ea.	Total Coops Sold	440
Banty Hens	3.00 - 3.25 ea.		
Leghorn Roosters	.50 ea.		

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 13-DECEMBER-2004

DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	143-145	149-151
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	127-131	128-133
MOSTLY		

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED, CENTS PER POUND

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	63.00-71.50	67.00-71.50
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	65.00-86.50	68.00-75.00

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-71.28
14 OZ.	66.96-77.92
16 OZ.	73.44-86.67

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WW

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices unchanged. Trade sentiment steady. Demand was moderate to at times good. Supplies were adequate for current needs. Schedules were full-time. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18 oz. boneless breast at \$4.25-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.35-1.45, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$0.30-0.50, livers at \$0.75-1.70, and feet at \$0.80-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 13-DECEMBER-2004

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	116-134	118-139
MOSTLY		

ESTIMATED U.S. FRYER SLAUGHTER/ **FRYER AVAILABILITY COMPARISON**

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
November 6	161.5	162.0	100%	5.32
13	163.9	159.1	103%	5.30
20	158.0	154.1	103%	5.28
27	119.1	153.1	78%	5.27
December 4	164.6	155.3	106%	5.41
11	161.8	155.8	104%	5.21
Year to date	7763.8	7887.6	98%	
December 18		154.3		
25		152.1		

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER **Under Federal Inspection**

W/E	12/18/04	12/11/04	% CHG	12/20/03	% CHG
Broilers	158,834	159,818*	-0.62	154,431*	+2.85
Cattle	624	627	0	636*	-02
Hogs	2,241	2,091	+07	2,236*	0

*ACTUAL

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Trading was too few to report on heavy canners; unchanged on lights when compared to a week earlier. Demand ranged fair to good for light canners; fairly good to good for heavies with most supplies being used internally. Offerings were adequate to about adequate and clearing. Processing schedules were noted as normal to less than normal. Trade sentiment was at least steady to fully steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS**(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)**

28-32 MAJORITY 28-30

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS**(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)**

29-34 MAJORITY 30-34

HEAVY CANNER HENS**(WITHOUT NECKS)**

TOO FEW SALES TO REPORT

HEAVY CANNER HENS**(WITHOUT NECKS)**

TOO FEW SALES TO REPORT

LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS (INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices were unchanged when compared to a week ago. Demand was mostly moderate with offerings of spent hens generally sufficient for current trade needs. Processing schedules were normal to less than normal. Opinions on removal costs were steady.

RANGE MAJORITY

REMOVAL COST

5-9

7-9

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Costs of disposal were too few to report. Demand was moderate for adequate offerings of spent hens. Schedules were reduced for the holiday week. Finished sales were seasonal. Values were expected to remain constant.

RANGE MAJORITY

REMOVAL COST

TOO FEW TO REPORT

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices ranged unchanged. Demand was reported as seasonally normal with offerings adequate. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment steady.

RANGE MAJORITY

REMOVAL COST

0-5

2-5

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plant schedules moderate. Offerings adequate.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 20-DEC-04

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was at least moderate for the about adequate to adequate offerings. Processing schedules for next week were reduced due to the holiday. Sales of finished product were generally sufficient and clearing satisfactorily. The undertone was fully steady.

RANGE MAJORITY

AT FARM BUYER LOADING

TOO FEW TO REPORT

AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING

TOO FEW TO REPORT

FOB PLANT

TOO FEW TO REPORT

SOUTH CENTRAL LIVE HEAVY-TYPE HENS Trading levels were too few to report. Demand was moderate for adequate offerings of heavy hens. Schedules were reduced for the holiday week. Sales were seasonally active. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

RANGE MAJORITY

AT FARM BUYER LOADING

TOO FEW TO REPORT

NEW YORK CITY SEASONAL POULTRY

FOR DELIVERY THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2004.

CAPONS:

Shipper asking prices were unchanged. Production of USDA Grade A frozen capons has been completed and shipments for the December holiday are in progress. Supplies were in close balance with anticipated demand. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady.

DOLLARS PER POUND DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS:

6-9 LBS.

1.65-1.80

MOSTLY 1.65-1.75

GEESE:

Shipper asking prices were unchanged from last week. Supplies of frozen USDA Grade A geese were in close balance with anticipated demand. The last of the regular December orders are being delivered. Overall demand for the season was fairly good. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady.

DOLLARS PER POUND DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS:

8-16 LBS.

2.40-2.55

MOSTLY 2.45-2.55

THIS WILL BE THE LAST HOLIDAY ITEMS REPORT FOR THE SEASON

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